## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention is directed to the cloning,

sequencing and expression of homologous immunoreactive 28-kDa

protein genes, p28-1, -2, -3, -5, -6, -7, -9, from a polymorphic

multiple gene family of Ehrlichia canis. Further disclosed is a

multigene locus encoding all nine homologous 28-kDa protein genes

of Ehrlichia canis. Recombinant Ehrlichia canis 28-kDa proteins

react with convalescent phase antiserum from an E. canis-infected

dog, and may be useful in the development of vaccines and

serodiagnostics that are particularly effective for disease prevention

and serodiagnosis.